Between the Lines

152 Madison Avenue
New York City

THE CHRISTIAN LAYMAN'S INFORMATION SERVICE
CONDENSED, NON-DENOMINATIONAL

CHARLES A. WELLS, *Editor*
GRACE LOZIER, *Ass't Editor*

Vol. 1. No. 19 September 14, 1942

We Face a Long, Hard War

Here's the lowdown in Washington circles on prospects for the war: First, we are now pretty sure of having to win this war the long, hard way. Russia has had shamefully little help. Our promises, like those of England to Czechoslovakia and Poland, have been pretty empty. We are now planning on a terriffic air offensive against Germany from England. This is to be our Second Front.

It is believed that if thousands of planes start hammering at German cities and transportation centers night after night, week after week, Germany will crack up. It is well known that the German people, regardless of the advances and costly victories in Russia, are tired, hungry, and sick of war. They know they cannot win the war without victory in the west and they see no way of defeating the ever-growing strength of America.

Many officials believe that vast air attacks can win the war but that ten million men must be ready in case they don't. Therefore, the biggest drive for man power of any time or any place in world history is starting right now in America. Also, if and when the air attacks are successful in bringing complete disintegration in Nazi-held Europe, millions of men must be ready to carry out a non-violent invasion to prevent chaos and revolution. Officials in Washington are saying (off the record) that it will take one million English and two million American soldiers to keep Europe from blowing to smithereens when Hitler falls.

In Asia, the war goes slowly and painfully. Marines found on the Solomon Islands what *Between the Lines* stated in one of our earliest issues—that Japanese forces don't break down or collapse as European armies do. The Japanese on the Solomons all had to be run down and killed one by one. It's going to take much time, men and money to win a war of that kind especially when it is scattered all over the Pacific.

Things To Do Now

The Quakers are endeavoring to work out a plan whereby Japanese-American students, whose loyalty is unquestionable, can complete their educational training in colleges that are located in non-military areas.

A petition is being circulated which protests Navy and the Air Corps restrictions against Negroes. This has already been signed by almost 50,000 persons, most of them white.

Churches Get Priority

It will warm the heart of every Christian to learn that President Roosevelt has written a letter to a leading Protestant denomination urging it *not* to give up plans for conferences, conventions, or conclaves during the coming year. The President stated that spiritual faith must be kept alive and vital in the American national scene . . . that we must do more and not less. Let the impact of this letter pervade the next church meeting you attend where folks want to curtail the church's program because of gas rationing or fuel shortages.

It Can Be Done

We hope you saw this—a few papers carried the story: Wichita Falls, Texas, has gone uncompromisingly dry and one hundred and forty liquor-selling establishments have closed up shop. This victory was determined by an election following a campaign sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance. Their slogan was "drunken soldiers can't win a war."

Reform in Washington

There is a bitter struggle going on behind the national scene that only the exceptionally well-informed citizen has been clear about. For the most part the pressure "to back the war effort" and support "national unity" has been so great, and the threat of punishment for the recalcitrant so menacing, few have had the courage to speak up. Here are the facts:

The inefficiency, the lack of coordination in planning and the political ball-passing in high places have resulted in such a mountain of confusion and waste in the government that the cry, "The war is being lost in Washington," is being heard like the roar of a gathering storm. The President's most friendly advisors have been alarmed and have urged him to take remedial steps; influential magazine editors have flatly warned him that public confidence in the whole war program is rapidly waning.

Have you wondered why more drastic action has been emanating from the White House lately than heretofore? The fact is that Mr. Roosevelt *had* to do something to show more definite, accurate leadership and less political horse-trading. The main issues behind the scenes around which the storm has been brewing are:

1. Failure to take steps toward a unified military command.
2. Making a bigger fuss over the dead issue of pre-Pearl Harbor isolationism than over the swiftly growing threat of a disastrous inflation.
3. Refusal to use the country's best brains in the war effort unless they had always agreed with administration policies.
4. Failure to remove grossly incompetent officials when they are politically loyal. (One Democratic editor from the South said, "If we could send home about half the red-tapers and drones who are only enviously trying to protect their own desk jobs and give the rest a free hand, we'd start to win the war!")
5. Definite attempts to discredit the powers of Congress in the name of expediency.

An aroused America, which didn't want a war in the first place, but which is now eager to get it finished and over with, is beginning to demand that these stumbling blocks be cleared away.

Authority on India

Just to show you further how things stand behind the scenes, the British boss of India whose word on the situation has been solemnly presented to the world as the final authority on truth and justice there, is Sir L. S. Amery, Secretary of State for India. In 1933 it was he who loudly justified Japan's rape of Manchuria before the League of Nations!

Hawaiian-Japanese Still at Liberty

Some extraordinarily interesting facts regarding the evacuation of Japanese in California have been brought out by Floyd Schmoe, a prominent Quaker and an authority on west coast race relations, in a recent report to the Fellowship of Reconciliation. It appears to *Between the Lines* that much of this evacuation will eventually prove to be purely political fire built under kettles of local political stew.

Mr. Schmoe points out that there are now in the United States, under armed guard, 112,000 Japanese-Americans, of whom considerably more than half are American citizens. Hawaii's Japanese population totals 150,000 but it has not yet been found necessary to take them into "protective custody."

Mr. Schmoe says: "The island fortress is exposed to attack from every direc-

(Continued on next page)

Cooperatives Fine Examples of the Profit System

You often hear it said that the Co-operatives are communistic and against the profit system but the truth is that they represent the profit system in its highest moral sense.

For the benefit of the doubter let us quote from the report of one of the largest eastern cooperatives: The Media Co-operative of Pennsylvania reports that its 5% stock representing an investment of $100 in 1940, and valued at $110 by December, 1941, earned $11.35 in 1941. The General Cooperative Wholesaler's investment of $100 in 1940 earned $24.20 in 1941. Now American Telephone and Telegraph common stock worth $100 in 1940 and $80.54 in 1941 earned $6.35 in 1941 over against the earnings of $11.35 and $25.20 for the same amount invested in two different cooperatives. The same amount of General Motors common earned $8.18 in 1941, and Dupont de Nemours common, $4.11.

The reason cooperatives can earn more is because there are no systems of directors and officials who earn fabulous salaries, and the profits go direct to the consumer-investor. For instance, if you own shares in a grocery cooperative you not only buy your groceries there and get better groceries slightly cheaper in price, but also at the end of the year you get a profit back on your investment in that grocery business. That profit goes to you after a fine salary is paid to the managers of your cooperative instead of all the profits going to the fat boys at the head of a chain while slave wages are paid local managers.

This Year's Profits

This war is not tied up with business interests? Here are the headlines from one issue of the financial page of the New York *Times*:

"DU PONT NET EARNINGS JUMP TO $25,953,444 FOR SIX MONTHS."

"CELANESE (*parachute fabric*) SHOWS UPTURN IN PROFITS."

"NATIONAL LEAD SALES UP."

"MORE DIVIDENDS NOW THAN IN 1941."

Russia and the Future

There are evidences that the British Tory government and the Roosevelt administration are already getting one foot out of the boat to be ready to jump should Moscow suddenly cease to be an active ally. It is well understood among officials in Washington that Churchill went to Moscow not only to confer on plans, but also to try to find out how bad things really are.

There are significant evidences that our government is passing into another pnase of attitude toward Russia. Two years ago we were piling mud on Moscow for the attack on Finland; a year ago we

Hawaiian-Japanese Still at Liberty

(*Continued from front page*)

tion—by air and by sea and from below the surface of the sea—and is twenty-five hundred miles closer to the enemy than is our mainland . . . . There have been no acts of sabotage by Japanese-Americans either in Hawaii or on the mainland. The Hawaiian-Japanese remain free and active in Hawaii with the F. B. I. confident that it can handle the situation there. The F. B. I. also believed that it could handle it along the Pacific Coast and high Army officials personally doubted the 'military necessity' thesis."

Perhaps some explanation for this inconsistent behavior can be found in the fact that in Hawaii the whites are not actively in competition with the Japanese-Hawaiians whereas "on the mainland, the Japanese are in competition with white farmers, grocers, dry-cleaners and professional people. Their place can be taken, *and is wanted*, by these others."

Perhaps the most stinging comment in Mr. Schmoe's report comparing the treatment of Japanese-Americans in Hawaii and in the United States is this: "The very words 'protective custody' (*Schutzhaft*) were 'made in Germany,' not here. How could it accord with American justice that if a man were dangerous to his neighbors, they should be put into custody rather than he?"

Christians may well give serious thought to this report.

Fraudulent Trade Schools

The need for trained men for war production has resulted in the mushroom growth over the country of numerous "trade schools" which claim to prepare their graduates for highly paid jobs in incredibly short periods of time.

The government has issued warnings against them and is endeavoring to make generally available training through free courses offered at public schools in defense centers. Little of these protests and warnings appears in the newspapers, possibly because the trade schools are heavy users of advertising space.

This does not mean to say that all trade schools are "gyps" for certainly there are some fine ones which meet a real need. However there are many "schools" which exist solely for the purpose of supplying cheap labor to unscrupulous employers. The technique involves enrolling a student for a stipulated period of time with the agreement that he will pay his tuition during that time by working "for practical training" in some small factory or shop, his wages for such work to be paid by the employer directly to the school. This means that he works virtually for nothing and, what is more, if he is dissatisfied, finds that he can't quit because of his signed contract with the school.

Between the Lines urges its young friends to watch out for this racket.

Democracy for Navy Wives

Interesting reports have come to us from Navy officers' wives who find that Annapolis rules for social rank don't fit well into this war for democracy. Seems that the remark "Oh, you're from the Reserve" is always said in *that* tone of voice and with a look down the nose, that officers' families are not supposed to live in the same apartment buildings with enlisted men's families no matter how acute the housing shortage, and that the sewing machines in the war work rooms are used by the women according to the husband's rank, the lower ranking wives sewing by hand or cutting. One officer's wife was cautioned against being seen on the street with her Harvard graduate brother because he had no rank though her advisor said friends would understand if she let him visit her privately inside her home.

This business of family rank is said to be much worse in the Navy than in the Army, though we did hear tell of the dreadful confusion that came when an Army officer's daughter married another officer who outranked her father; the father had to sit at the foot of the wedding table, even though he was host.

On the other hand, swank New York restaurateurs and tailors wishing to ape the English custom, attempted to cater only to officers at the outset of America's entry in the war. But the democratic public wouldn't have it . . . besides too many big shots had chosen to enlist as gobs and privates. It's the old school tie spirit at Annapolis and Westpoint that tries to maintain the officer-nobility within our armed forces.

The free camaraderie between ranks which pervades the great armed forces of Russia, China and even Germany have contributed more to their effectiveness in fighting than the class-ridden regiments of the democracies dare to admit. Brotherhood is glowingly spoken of in our war aims, but often denied within our own hearts.

The Drift

Even those who have been pro-war and pro-British are beginning to squirm over some things. "This is not a people's war: it is an expert's war. The people hardly know what goes on . . . their consent is asked about nothing." Now if some little man, . . . just a common citizen said that very loudly in the open, he'd probably be arrested, charged with seditious utterances, fined and put in jail. But this quotation, from the New York Sun of August 19, was written by George Sokolsky, noted correspondent who has been pro-war and pro-British. We can therefore quote him and save our own necks.

What's more, Mr. Sokolsky concluded: "If anyone dared write today a song 'I

our government is passing into another pnase of attitude toward Russia. Two years ago we were piling mud on Moscow for the attack on Finland; a year ago we switched from mud to honey and whitewash. Now the whole mixture is turning a little sour. War requires that our side be all white and the other side all black —it gets a little complicated when things happen so fast!

We faced the chance last spring of making Russia the offensive force that could break Hitler this summer. This alternate situation is now before us.

Do you Remember

That *Between the Lines* stated, before the series of trials for sedition, that although *Social Justice* and Father Coughlin represented the most outspoken and direct form of these objectionable utterances, the priest would not be touched? Since then, while *Social Justice* has been banned, several individuals have been *sentenced to prison for saying less* than Father Coughlin. Also remember that Father Coughlin finally admitted connection with and offered words of defense for the armed "Christian Fronters" who were run down by the F.B.I. in Brooklyn. Up to this writing Father Coughlin has had no interference from the government, nor has he personally been brought before a Grand Jury inquiry as have hundreds of others. There is more in this than we care to mention!

A Labor Government for the United States

Watch closely the movement for a giant merger of labor organizations. We tipped you off in February that this trend was beginning to develop. The quarrels between labor leaders in the spring checked it for a while but our listening posts in Washington report that the White House is now behind the new build-up for uniting the strength of the A. F. of L. and the C. I. O. The White House is interested because of the vast vote-power of such a block. As we have reported to you from time to time, the administration is trying to avoid a break with any labor faction. The government has usually ignored labor evils—even where union men have been caught red-handed in some crooked deal. As it becomes evident that the President is not going to be able to count on the blocks of party support he has had in the past, he is becoming more and more determined to make his government a labor government and thus replenish its power.

And did you know that in the majority of cases where President Roosevelt has ordered the Army and Navy to take over a plant because of a strike, it has turned out in the end that the federal power has been used to strengthen the position of labor and that the final settlement involved has usually played into the hands of the labor leaders heading the strike?

WHEN WILL WE LEARN?

Most of us think we can leave Christianity out of our lives and that after all it really won't matter. But the one thing the world is teaching us today is that it does matter. For centuries man has tried to build his own world instead of God's kingdom, and again and again we have seen man's efforts consumed by the outbreaks of those elements of life that have not submitted to divine will. There is every evidence that man must soon either submit to the way of God as expressed through Christianity or destroy all that civilization has suffered to bring forth in a thousand years of painful progress. Christianity gave man a picture of what sublime beauty and perfection the power of God could create with human life. Without that pattern we are completely lost.

Labor-Management Conference Boards

Our listening posts, both in labor union circles and in industrial corporation set-ups are warning us that the country at large is not at all aware of an extremely important development, being quietly pushed by the administration, in the new labor-management conference boards that are proposed for large industries. For some reason the papers and news weeklies for the most part have put the hush-hush on all of these developments but it is a trend that is slowly gathering steam—something that will be cuffed about and held under the surface with the hope that it will drown but that will be forever bobbing up and will inevitably come to pass. It is one of the long-term aims of unionism about which they are saying little openly now but which they are determined to promote.

The boards would consist of delegations of workers chosen to sit in conference with the management of industrial concerns with which they are employed *to decide not only labor questions, but also practically all policies related to production, wages and even profits.*

The tone of the government proposals is that it would be a war time set-up to expedite the processes of production for the duration. The lowdown is that the New Deal officials mean for the formula to stick. Some of these days the realization of this will sink into the heads of big business, and we'll hear plenty of rows about it. The theory of the government production experts who have the New Deal social reform viewpoint, is that when they have been able to prove the effectiveness of the system, they'll be able to create enough public favor to make the plan permanent.

If the idea is not prostituted for political power it sounds good. One of America's large industrialists, who is awake to the full import of the plan, told the editor of *Between the Lines* that he believed it the only way to save capitalism from a fascist trend. We feel it can easily become a fine expression of the Christian principal of sharing—sharing responsibility as well as profits—when it is applied to business.

pro-war and pro-British. We can therefore quote him and save our own necks.

What's more, Mr. Sokolsky concluded: "If anyone dared write today a song 'I love America! I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and templed hills. I love only America exclusively and forever' . . . if anyone wrote that now he would be accused of following the Nazi line and dividing the 'United Nations'!"

India's Civil Disobedience Continues

The reports you read on India (which are handouts of the British Information service or have been screened through the undemocratic British censorship) that the Nationalist outbreaks have been practically snuffed out and that Gandhi and his followers have been completely squelched *are absolutely false.*

Indian leaders now in America report that it is true that the mob violence which accompanied the announcement of civil disobedience has subsided but these violent disturbances were never a part of the civil disobedience program. That program has hardly even started yet! It is to be a quiet, insidious action that will not be fully felt until December or January but the Indian leaders expect its silent invisible grip to paralyze 70% of Indian industry.

A Fresh Russian Army for Winter

Where are Voroshilov and Budenny? While you read the bad news from Russia, don't forget that these highly competent generals are known to be behind the Ural Mountains training a vast new Russian army for the coming winter's operations.

The Fight Against Movie Block Booking

One of the most vicious elements in the American entertainment field is the Hollywood movie corporations' "block-booking" system in which a theater owner cannot buy the pictures he wants and feels his community would best appreciate. He must buy a *series* of pictures made by various producers and take what is given to him, good and bad. The Hollywood moguls have made a racket of this for years. Newspapers have been forced to keep their silence because of movie advertising.

Now United States Attorney General Thurman Arnold is attempting to break this racket by applying anti-trust laws. Hollywood and all its allies are fighting it with all their resources. Hollywood is not interested in your community's interests nor in its morals. It is interested only in profits. If it can sell one fine picture and make a theater owner take four cheap, sordid productions to get it, that's Hollywood's idea of a good business arrangement.

Curtailment of War Production

The public keeps pretty well abreast of the facts on war production but here are some hidden angles that may not be so generally known: For months the press and news weeklies have been hammering at the sins of labor in war production,—the loss of time caused by strikes, etc. And there *have* been crippling strikes, but production of war goods has so increased that the first six months of 1942 has seen *one and a half times more war materials produced than for all of* 1941.

The production of this June was three times the monthly rate of the November production before Pearl Harbor; war planes are completed at the rate of nearly 4000 per month; ships are launched a little faster than two a day; 15,000 tanks, 50,000 machine guns, and other materials are produced per month proportionately. Now in this picture, according to the report of Senator La Follette, the time lost in strikes and labor disputes has actually amounted only to 6/100*ths of one per cent* of the man days devoted to war production. The War Labor Board chairman told a Senate committee that the war labor record of the United States in the maintenance of war production has been twice as good as the record of labor in Great Britain during the past three years of war.

But now, if you'll read your news carefully, you'll discover an alarming situation. At the beginning of our first offensive blows at our enemies, important war plants are cutting down production from ten to thirty percent because of shortages of strategic materials. Shipyards have been forced to curtail production because of shortages of steel while news stories tell of the "black markets" for steel and of wilful delay in furthering new processes. Some airplane factories have been running twenty-five percent under capacity because of the aluminum shortage which has been created and perpetuated by the gradually disintegrative monopoly stranglehold of the Aluminum Company of America. (A two million dollar advertising campaign has been trying to cover this). Shortages of power and fuel are crippling many other centers.

Big business, through its control of the press, is still playing up the effect of strikes on war production but in reality strikes have equalled only an infinitesimal fraction of the loss. This is not intended to be a defense of the malicious elements in labor but it should explain why labor leaders sometimes get tough. They have to.

ON THE OTHER hand, the War Production Board has denounced the Army and Navy, claiming that they are squandering desperately needed materials and are refusing to economize where economy would not affect military efficiency. Since this charge could serve as a convenient smoke screen for big business failures, it was played up in the news. It deserved to be, but it is only part of the story. Brass hat obstinacy in the armed forces plus greed in the management of industry are certainly present in our national stew in sufficient quantities to match the rascality present in unionism and labor.

Some Causes of the Rubber Shortage

As we reported some time ago, in spite of all the efforts still being made to quiet the fact, much of our rubber plight is due to greed of the British and Dutch rubber barons who held the world monopoly and tried to force the United States to pay exorbitant monopoly prices for rubber *even after the war had started* at a time when Uncle Sam was trying to build up a stock pile for the war emergency.

In Washington that uncomfortable fact is again being aired through various conferences that are now being held on the rubber problem. You will remember that previously when Jesse Jones charged that the British-Dutch rubber cartel, by limiting production sharply, had raised prices excessively and had been slow in making rubber available, he was denounced as unpatriotic by forces in Washington who were trying to shield the real culprits.

The facts are that before Jones' agreement with the International Rubber Regulation Committee, rubber sold at about 17 cents; while he was stock piling it reached nearly 25 cents. Small wonder then that the Truman Congressional Investigation Committee report listed quota restrictions of the International Rubber monopoly as the first of "three principal causes behind the partial failure of the stock pile program" which is the cause of all our rubber troubles now.

How Are Gallup Polls Used?

When the findings of the well known Gallup polls fit the picture that the big boys want to push, the findings are played up in headlines everywhere but when it goes the other way, the reports are pushed back in the want ad sections of the papers, or are squelched altogether.

Recently, in the midst of all the hate-breeding propaganda that war always produces, the Gallup poll asked the American people if they felt the German people should be hated and punished as well as the Nazis. Seventy-five percent of the American people said "No." The quarrel and bitterness is against the Nazis and not against the German people. That report was suppressed as much as possible.

It has also been heard in some quarters that the Gallup Institute is planning a poll on the question of the freedom of India. While newspapers, magazines and radios have been compelled to follow the imperialistic line of propaganda dictated by British interests, the Gallup Institute became convinced that the large majority of the people of America would say India should be free *now* in order to give some intelligence and substance to our present flimsy and contradictory war aims. So the Gallup poll on India was not held.

It has also been said in reliable quarters that it was this development that caused the *LIFE* and *TIME* magazines to turn about and be more critical of the British than of Gandhi—as you may have noticed lately.

Between the Lines

The Christian Layman's Information Service

Vol. 1. No. 19. September 14, 1942

$1.00 a year. Published every two weeks

Published by CHARLES A. WELLS

152 Madison Avenue New York City

Application for second class entry pending at New York, New York